



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY**

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

January 13, 2006

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

This letter responds to the President's direction to federal agencies through Executive Order 13392, entitled "Improving Agency Disclosure of Information," signed December 14, 2005, to strengthen compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) operations, and to designate a Chief FOIA Officer by January 13, 2006. I have designated General Counsel Keith E. Gottfried to be the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Chief FOIA Officer.

Under the General Counsel's leadership, the Department will work diligently to achieve the objectives of the President's Executive Order in providing efficient and appropriate compliance with FOIA, facilitating public understanding of the purposes of FOIA, establishing the FOIA Requester Service Centers, and designating FOIA Public Liaisons to ensure appropriate communications with members of the public requesting information about HUD under FOIA. As HUD's Chief FOIA Officer, the General Counsel will commence a review of the Department's FOIA operations and develop a plan for improvement of these operations with concrete milestones for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007, as directed by the Executive Order.

If there is any change in HUD's Chief FOIA Officer, the Department will notify the Department of Justice, as well as the Office of Management and Budget, of the change in designation.

The Department is pleased to participate in the President's initiative to ensure citizen-centered and results-oriented FOIA operations across the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Alphonso Jackson", is written over a horizontal line.

Alphonso Jackson

cc: The Honorable Joel D. Kaplan
Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget